

In November 1993, Dr. Satcher was appointed as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]. With policies he initiated, he has been credited with increasing child immunization rates from 52 percent to a record 78 percent in 1996, and improving the Nation's capacity to respond to emerging infectious diseases. During his tenure, the CDC has placed considerable emphasis on prevention programs as its breast and cervical cancer programs have now been expanded to all 50 States. In his current position, Dr. Satcher has garnered even more awards, including Ebony magazine's American Black Achievement Award in Business and the Professions, the Breslow Award for Excellence in Public Health, and recently the Dr. Nathan B. Davis Award for outstanding public service to advance the public health and the John Stearns Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medicine from the New York Academy of Medicine.

I believe HHS Secretary Dr. Donna Shalala described Dr. Satcher in the best manner, when she said that he brings "world-class stature, management skill, integrity, and preventive health care experience" to any office or title he may hold. President Clinton has stated that Dr. Satcher should concentrate heavily on reducing smoking, particularly among children. As an advocate for preventive health in family medicine, Dr. Satcher has worked to heighten awareness about all American's health and will continue to do so.

Mr. President, I believe that Dr. Satcher will bring the same professionalism, dedication, skill, and most of all character to this new position that he has shown throughout his professional career. I strongly urge my colleagues to support his nomination to the post of Surgeon General of the United States.●

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to express my gratitude to the diligent work of our leaders in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee especially the chairman, Senator CHAFEE and ranking member, Senator BAUCUS along with the chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee, Senator WARNER in crafting a comprehensive, 6 year transportation bill. The bill unanimously passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee makes progress towards building a more equitable formula for distributing Federal transportation funds to the States. It is unfortunate Congress did not have the opportunity to debate this bill during this session of Congress although I look forward to building upon progress made by the committee when the Senate reconvenes in January.

The law which authorizes our Federal transportation program expired on September 30 of this year. Thanks to the competent work of Gov. Fob

James, and Jimmy Butts, the director at the Alabama Department of Transportation, and Don Vaughn, Assistant Transportation Director, I was alerted early on that if Congress failed to act on passing a transportation bill, critical transportation programs such as Interstate Maintenance, the National Highway System, and needed bridge repair throughout Alabama would cease by December. In addition, the Federal Department of Transportation would have been forced to shut its doors and transportation contractors would have been forced to lay off workers as Alabama and many other States curtailed or ceased awarding of transportation maintenance and construction contracts. To avoid this crisis, the Senate has enacted a short term solution to allow transportation projects to continue by providing additional funding and increased flexibility of Federal transportation funds to States.

The temporary transportation resolution passed by the Senate on Tuesday will allow Alabama access to \$174,469,000 for critical highway programs. This amount represents half the amount of Federal highway funds Alabama was able to spend in fiscal year 1997. In addition, the Alabama Department of Transportation will have the flexibility to transfer funds between various transportation programs so that planning, maintenance and expansion can continue as a comprehensive, long-term transportation bill is passed by Congress early next year. Once a new long-term transportation bill is passed, the Secretary of Transportation will offset each State's fiscal year 1998 funding to reflect the funds used by each State as a result of this extension.

Again, I would like to personally thank and congratulate Senator BOND for putting this package together with our leaders of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator CHAFEE, WARNER, and BAUCUS. While many of my colleagues and myself would have preferred a long-term solution to our transportation needs, this short-term extension will allow Alabama and all States to continue their transportation planning, maintenance, and construction until a new, long-term bill is negotiated and passed hopefully early next year.●

YEAR 2000 PROBLEM STILL LOOMING, REQUIRES ACTION

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, as we approach the end of the 1st session of the 105th Congress, I would like to implore the Senate for one final time to consider the urgency of the year 2000 crisis. This matter has been much discussed and reported, but little action has taken place. In fact, the General Accounting Office last week released a report that the Social Security Administration, once thought to be at the fore of the solution, faces a possible crash of several crucial systems dealing with disability determination services.

This report is indicative of the enormity of the problem facing the computer systems of the Federal Government. I introduced S. 22 on the first day of this session to establish a bipartisan national commission to handle this problem—as a civil defense task force would. Try as they might, officials at the Office of Management and Budget simply cannot address the enormity of the task at hand.

Every few days I have attempted to keep my colleagues informed of the latest facets of the problem. On this last day of the first session let me add but one more twist to the immense but manageable problem. If only we would act. In the latest U.S. News and World Report, John Marks reports on the troublesome coincidence of converting to the new European currency at the time of the turn of the century. He writes:

Even before it is introduced on January 1, 1999, the long awaited euro threatens to cost American business \$30 billion or more to buy new software and recode old programs, as companies with interests on the other side of the Atlantic attempt to adapt to the new currency . . . the two problems would seem to be unrelated. But the coincidence in timing—the millennium bug and the currency change arrive within a year of each other—has transformed them into a larger single crisis for many companies.

Thus, international companies are forced to deal with two conversions in the next 2 years; and not surprisingly, experts predict there will be a drought in the supply of consultants who know how to do both.

Again, U.S. News:

Last year, after dire warnings of a technological disaster at the dawn of the new century, companies rushed to hire programmers to save the day. In doing so, they created a labor shortage at a critical moment. Work on both the millennium bug and the euro transition requires knowledge of outdated COBOL computer systems. So all of a sudden, most of the programmers who might be deployed to manage the transition to the euro already have day jobs.

As I have mentioned before on this floor, we must also consider the conversion to the Euro and the labor shortage created over the next few years when we consider the size of the problem at hand.

The year 2000 problem is now fairly well known; the need for action plainly clear. With the legislative year coming to a close, I am hopeful my colleagues will realize this fact in the restful period between now and January 27 and be eager to take action on my bill—S. 22 with 18 copponsors—in the year to come.

I ask that the article "Latest Software Nightmare" from the November 17, 1997, issue of U.S. News and World Report and "Social Security Gets Year 2000 Warning" from the November 5 Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the U.S. News & World Report, Nov. 17, 1997]

LATEST SOFTWARE NIGHTMARE—THE CURRENCY CHANGE IN EUROPE COULD COST U.S. FIRMS BILLIONS

(By John Marks)

For the past year or so, American businesses have been forced to grapple with the "millennium bug," a computer programming glitch that threatens to wipe out bank accounts, financial statements, and databases when the year 1999 becomes the year 2000. Now, companies must brace themselves for another daunting—very expensive—software-related problem, this one involving the new European currency known as the euro.

Even before it is introduced on Jan. 1, 1999, the long-awaited euro threatens to cost American business \$30 billion or more to buy new software and recode old programs, as companies with interests on the other side of the Atlantic attempt to adapt to the new currency. No later than Dec. 31, 1998, people doing business in Europe will have to rewrite their computer software to handle three different base currencies at once. The value of the euro will have to be determined on a daily basis by its relationship to both the dollar and other European currencies. In other words, every bill, every financial statement, and every stock price in the nine countries set to join what is known as the European Monetary Union will have to be "triangulated." So far, says Sarwar Kashmeri, a corporate consultant specializing in the issue, no commercial software exists to make that calculation. "We have been focusing very hard on the year-2000 problem, but we've been missing the euro," says Gary Johnson, an American attorney specializing in European securities markets.

The two problems would seem to be unrelated. But the coincidence in timing—the millennium bug and the currency change arrive within a year of each other—has transformed them into a larger, single crisis for many companies. The well-publicized millennium-bug problem was unwittingly created by computer programmers in the 1960s. In an effort to maximize scarce computer memory, programmers left the first two digits out of the year designation, so that 1997 reads merely "97." Theoretically, when the year 2000 arrives, 90 percent of the world's computers will "think" it is 1900, creating all kinds of chaos. According to the cost conservative estimates, fixing the millennium bug will cost American business between \$50 billion and \$150 billion.

BUG ZAPPER

Last year, after dire warnings of a technological disaster at the dawn of the new century, companies rushed to hire programmers to save the day. In doing so, they created a labor shortage at a critical moment. Work on both the millennium bug and the euro transition requires knowledge of outdated COBOL computer systems. So all of a sudden, most of the programmers who might be deployed to manage the transition to the euro already have day jobs. "There is a tremendous shortage of those kinds of skill sets," confirms Chris Fell, an executive at International Data corp.

Though the euro will be introduced in January 1999, it will not become the sole currency in Europe until July 1, 2002. On that date, all other currencies will be taken out of circulation. While a large part of the U.S. business community remains skeptical that Europe will pull off this monetary feat, many companies have begun to accept that it will. A few have begun to accept that it will. A few have begun to take steps. DuPont, which has a significant presence in Europe, has put together a team to prepare for

the introduction of the currency. United Parcel Service has done the same. Both firms are looking into how to adapt their computer systems.

The change to the euro will affect some companies more than others. For example, Bloomberg Financial Markets, the world's largest provider of financial information, will have to add the euro to 10 year's worth of records—everything from trading prices to financial statements. In a recent Securities and Exchange Commission filing, Alliance Gaming Corp. announced that it would probably have to "redesign new and, possibly, existing" slot machines to accept new currencies.

While the initial changeover to the euro may be a financial headache, the vast new market created by the currency is expected to be lucrative for American companies. And no matter what it costs businesses on this side of the Atlantic to adjust their information technologies, they can rest assured that their European counterparts will be out even more: The most recent estimate puts the price of converting to the euro at \$70 billion for European businesses.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 5, 1997]

SOCIAL SECURITY GETS YEAR 2000 WARNING—MORE WORK NEEDED ON GLITCH, GAO SAYS

(By Rajiv Chandrasekaran)

The General Accounting Office today will warn that the Social Security Administration (SSA) faces a possible computer crash in the year 2000 because the agency has not started analyzing or fixing several crucial systems affected by the year 2000 software glitch.

Among the systems not yet analyzed are most of the 54 computer systems that operate state disability determination services, according to the GAO, the watchdog arm of Congress.

Those systems, which are operated by individual states but funded by the federal government, process applicants for Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance, programs that currently assist 12.5 million people.

"Disruptions to this service due to incomplete Year 2000 conversions will prevent or delay SSA's assistance to millions of individuals across the country," Joel Willemsen, the GAO's director of information resources management, wrote in a report to be released today by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) and Rep. Jim Bunning (R-Ky.).

The GAO also said the Social Security Administration has not developed adequate contingency plans in case its computers are not fixed in time.

The report, however, did not call into the question the agency's ability to issue standard monthly Social Security checks in 2000 and beyond.

The SSA has long been touted as the federal agency that is most keenly aware of the year 2000 problem. The agency, whose "mission critical" systems collectively had been thought to have about 34 million lines of computer code, began making year 2000 repairs almost a decade ago.

As a result, SSA officials have been asked to hold seminars for other federal agencies about the issue and have been singled out for praise by Congress in the past. The new findings, congressional officials said, could create a new round of uncertainty about the federal government's year 2000 preparedness.

"If Social Security, which we've thought had everything under control, really doesn't, that raises new questions about other agencies," said a congressional staffer.

The year 2000 problem exists because most large computer systems have used a two-digit dating system that assumes that 1 and 9 are the first two digits of the year.

Without specialized reprogramming, the systems will think the year 2000—or 00—is 1900, a glitch that could cause them to go haywire.

According to the GAO, private contractors hired by the SSA to fix the year 2000 glitch on 42 of the 54 state disability determination services computers discovered 33 million additional lines of code that need to be tested and, where necessary, fixed.

The SSA did not include the state disability determination systems in its initial assessment of the date glitch, but now acknowledges that the systems are "mission critical" because of their importance in determining whether a person is medically eligible to receive disability payments, the GAO report said.

Analyzing and fixing the problem likely will be a massive undertaking. In just one office, the GAO said it found 600,000 lines of code in 400 programs that operate the disability system.

Without a full understanding of the scope of the problem on the state disability systems, "SSA increases the risk that benefits and services will be disrupted," the GAO wrote.

Kathleen M. Adams, SSA's chief information officer, said the agency has recently received reports from all 50 states detailing their plans to fix the disability systems.

"They will be tested and implemented by December 1998, like the rest of Social Security," Adams said. "I am very comfortable [the disability systems] will be ready."

Adams said five states already have finished the conversion work for the disability systems.

The GAO also said the SSA faces a significant challenge in ensuring data that it exchanges with other federal and state agencies will be year 2000 compliant.

"Because SSA must rely on the hundreds of federal and state agencies and the thousands of businesses with which it exchanges files to make their systems compliant, SSA faces a definite risk that inaccurate data will be introduced into its databases," the GAO wrote.●

OMNIBUS PATENT ACT OF 1997

● Mr. BOND. Mr President, Congress has the "power to promote the progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." If that phrase sounds familiar to my colleagues, it is because I lifted it straight from the Constitution. Article 1, section 8, known to many as the inventors clause.

This section of the Constitution is the result of the foresight that our Founding Fathers had to cut a deal with the creative minds of a fledgling country. The deal was rather simple, in exchange for sharing their ingenuity and their creations with the citizens of this new country, the Congress would grant these inventors temporary monopolies on their products and permit them to enjoy the proceeds of their invention for a period of time, with the weight of the law of the land to ensure those rights were protected.

This was a carefully thought out concept by rather brilliant individuals with unquestioned foresight. In my opinion, this compromise has been a smashing success. In the past 220 years,